

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 072746

R 212020Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5940

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, HOK, ES

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY WRAPUP OF SALVADOR TALKS

1. FONMIN BATRES CALLED IN RESIDENT CHIEFS OF MISSION ON DEC 19 AND GAVE THEM ORAL BRIEFING ON BREAKDOWN OF TALKS WITH SALVADOR ALONG LINES EARLIER GIVEN TO US. HE IS APPARENTLY VISITING MANAGUA TO BRIEF GON ON DEC 21 INSTEAD OF DEC 20 AS EARLIER PLANNED. IN ADDITION, FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED PRESS COMMUNIQUE DATED DEC 19 (BUT ONLY AVAILABLE ON DEC 21), AND BATRES APPEARED IN NATIONALLY BROADCAST PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEC 20.

2. PRESS COMMUNIQUE MAINLY CONCENTRATES ON SALVADOR'S UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ITS OWN "DESCRIPTION" OF THE FRONTIER LINE AND ITS CLAIMS, AFTER HAVING RECEIVED SUCH DESCRIPTION FROM HONDURAN NEGOTIATORS. COMMUNIQUE INCLUDES SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN LETTERS ON MATTER TO MEXICAN COORDINATOR, WHICH WE WILL POUCH.

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3. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, BATRES SAID BREAKDOWN OF TALKS WAS DISAPPOINTING, BUT NOT A "FRACASO." HE SAID PARALLEL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CHIEFS OF STATE HAD BEEN NORMAL PART OF PROCESS. GOH WAS NOT AVERSE TO RENEWING TALKS, BUT ON CONDITION THEY BE HELD IN ACCORD WITH AGREED PROGRAM OF NEGOTIATIONS. BATRES SAID THAT OTHER CA COUNTRIES COULD NOT FORM "JURY" ON MATTER, BUT THAT ONE OR ALL CAS COULD SERVE AS MEDIATOR. HIS GENERAL LINE ON REASON THAT TALKS BROKE DOWN WAS THE SAME AS IN COMMUNIQUE, I.E. SALVADOR'S REFUSAL TO DEFINE ITS BORDER POSITION.
SANCHEZ

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